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The Friday Newsletter



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News Briefs

AFTERMATH OF THE RARE II COURT DECISION: The Ninth Circuit Court's recent decision concerning the adequacy of environmental statement procedures in RARE II has created a considerable amount of confusion about where the Forest Service stands in relation to RARE II recommendations. Assistant Agriculture Secretary John B. Crowell, Jr. told the Western Environmental Trade Association in Helena, Mont. recently.

The Assistant Secretary said it is true that the court decision applies directly only to the California areas, but he believes it is "very clear" that the decision is an indistinguishable legal precedent for all RARE II recommendations as well. The effect of the decision is potentially far-reaching.

Clearly, he said, the ideal solution would be for Congress to act to clear up the roadless area situation. If it does not, we have "some tough choices" to make, as to how to proceed administratively in managing what amounts to a large portion of the National Forest System.

We believe that wilderness has a rightful and deserving place on the National Forests, but almost a third of the National Forest System has been tied up in debates over the roadless areas for over a decade now, he said. The court decision casts further doubt on the fate of those areas.

We would like to see the issue resolved, so that we can get on with managing the wilderness areas for their wilderness values, and with managing non-wilderness areas for other uses, he said, adding that

in effect, the court decision results in a requirement that this acreage be managed as de facto wilderness, either until Congress deals with the wilderness issue, or until Forest plans correct the deficiencies in the RARE II Environmental Impact Statement.

1982 FIP REPORTS 229,000 ACRES OF REFORESTATION AND TSI: More than 7,000 landowners in forty-seven states and Puerto Rico participated in the 1982 Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), accomplishing more than 229,000 acres of reforestation and timber stand improvement (TSI) during the year.

While this was a substantial accomplishment, it is a 30 percent decrease from the acreage treated during 1981. The drop can be attributed to reduced program funding in the past two years, and to the general state of the national economy, which made it difficult for landowners to make investments in their forest lands.

FIP is a federal program for nonindustrial private forest lands. It is jointly administered by the Forest Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). The program pays up to 65 percent of the cost of reforestation and TSI. Since the program began in 1974, more than 2.3 million acres have been treated.

There was a seven percent reduction in the cost of tree planting last year, from \$70.04 per acre in 1981, to \$65 per acre. A recent economic evaluation of the work done under the program in 1979, shows a real rate of return of more than eight percent. This study also shows that 94 percent of the acres treated in 1974 are still in place. They will be commercial producers in the future, while improving the environment.

Legislation

BUDGET SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED SEPARATELY: A supplement to the Friday Newsletter on Forest Service Appropriations for 1983 is being published and will be sent to everyone on the FNL mailing list. The supplement shows the funding level for 1982, the President's budget for 1983, House, Senate and conference action, and the Appropriation Bill (P.L.97-394), as signed by the President on Dec. 30.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT WILL LIST LAWS RELATING TO FOREST SERVICE: Another special supplement to the Friday Newsletter, listing the laws enacted during the 97th Congress' Second Session relating to the Forest Service, will be published soon and mailed to Friday Newsletter readers.

Ask the Chief

You will recall that in FNL No. 48, we said we wanted to begin carrying the "Ask the Chief" column again, to give all of you an opportunity to get answers to specific questions of particular interest to you. This is the first of the new "Ask The Chief" series. Please keep your questions coming.

Question: "What are your expectations from FLIPS (Forest Level Information Processing System), and do you intend to have a work station in your office?"

Even though we face tight budgets, I believe more efficient information management is vital to improved productivity. When FLIPS is completed, the entire Forest Service network--Districts, Forests, Regional Offices, other units and the Washington Office--will be linked electronically.

I believe that this system will give us more time to do better work. It will open new and broader career opportunities for many disciplines. Our personnel, including staff, will have more time to do work on-the-ground, and spend less time working with paper and information. Where we have already implemented these concepts and some of the equipment, people are finding they have increased their productivity.

To me, the impressive thing about this system is that it is simple, easy to build, and was designed from the bottom up by the people who will use it. The payoff is an improvement in the quality and quantity of work because we will all have more time to do our jobs.

Since we are just entering the final stages of the FLIPS procurement process, I don't know yet if I will have a FLIPS work station in my office. You may be sure, however, that I will make full use of the system and the office automation equipment available.

(Note: All Forest Service employees are invited to send their questions of general interest to "Ask The Chief," in care of the Editor of the Friday Newsletter, Washington Office.)

New Releases

*Copies of the full texts of the following speeches may be obtained from the Speechwriting Section, OI, WO, FTS 447-6957.

Title: The National Forests--Many Uses, Many Issues. Speaker: John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. Audience: Western Environmental Trade Association. Place: Helena, Mont. Date: Jan. 13, 1983.

Title: Looking Ahead. Speaker: John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. Audience: Associated Oregon Loggers. Place: Eugene, Ore. Date: Jan. 15, 1983.

Title: Economy Is Responding To Administration's Programs. Speaker: John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. Audience: Chamber of Commerce. Place: Cottage Grove, Ore. Date: Jan. 15, 1983.

Title: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.--A Living Memorial. Speaker: F. Dale Robertson, Associate Chief. Audience: Those attending the planting of a memorial tree. Place: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for

Nonviolent Social Change, Atlanta, Ga.
Date: Jan. 12, 1983.

Title: More Effective Roles for Foresters and Wildlife Biologists. Speaker: J. Lamar Beasley, Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation, Audience: New York Society of Foresters and the New York Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Place: Syracuse, N.Y.
Date: Jan. 19, 1983.

Personnel Actions

WO--Ted V. Russell, Assistant Director of Range Management, NFS, WO, reassigned to Director of Range Management, R-4.

WO--Mervin Stevens, reassigned from overseas assignment in Rome to Forester, International Forestry Staff, WO.

R-1--John B. White, Group Leader, Land Management Planning, PP&B, R-1, promoted to Assistant Director, Regional and Forest Land Management Planning, LMP, NFS, WO.

R-3--Raymond J. Evans, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Carson NF, R-3, promoted to Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NF's, R-2.

R-8--Howard R. Orr, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee/Oconee NF's, R-8, promoted to Director of Recreation, RO, R-8.



Chief

